United Nations A/70/96

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 June 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Item 74 (a) of the preliminary list*
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Central Emergency Response Fund

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides a description of the activities of the Central Emergency Response Fund from 1 January to 31 December 2014. The Fund continues to demonstrate its effectiveness as a tool for collective emergency response by providing reliable, timely and targeted funding for life-saving humanitarian projects. During the reporting period, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated $460.8 million from the rapid response and underfunded emergency grant windows to support activities in 44 countries and one territory. Member States and the private sector contributed $479.2 million to the Fund for 2014. In 2014, the Emergency Relief Coordinator commissioned two scoping studies to look at the role of the Fund in the evolving humanitarian landscape and to ensure that contributions entrusted to the Fund effectively and efficiently served those people most affected by crises.

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15-09812 (E) 060715

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/102, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund. The report covers the Fund's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2014.

II. Overview of the funding commitments of the Fund

2. During the reporting period, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved grants totalling $460.8 million to projects in 44 countries and one territory (see table 1). Allocations made during that period included $290.7 million for new or rapidly deteriorating crises through the rapid response window of the Fund and $170.1 million for critically underfunded crises through the underfunded emergency window. By the end of 2014, Fund allocations, since its inception in 2006, exceeded $3.7 billion to 91 countries and territories.

Table 1
Central Emergency Response Fund allocations from 1 January to 31 December 2014
(United States dollars)

	Rapid response window	*Underfunded emergency window*	*Total*
Amount approved	290 743 928	170 055 252	460 799 180
Number of recipient countries or territories	34	22	45[a]
Number of projects funded	362	228	590

[a] Certain countries or territories received allocations from both funding windows.

3. In accordance with the Secretary-General's Bulletin of 23 April 2010 (ST/SGB/2010/5), two thirds of the grant element of the Fund is reserved for its rapid response window. Allocations from this window promote early response to humanitarian needs by supporting time-critical, life-saving humanitarian activities in the initial stages of a sudden-onset crisis or following a significant deterioration in an existing emergency. During the reporting period, the Fund played a critical role in the response to emergencies in 34 countries and one territory through its rapid response window (see table 2). More than half of available rapid response funding went to South Sudan ($53.7 million), Iraq ($25.7 million), the Central African Republic ($25.1 million), the Sudan ($23.2 million) and Ethiopia ($21 million). Those top rapid response recipients faced protracted but rapidly evolving emergencies with sudden spikes in humanitarian need.

Table 2
Rapid response window allocations in 2014
(United States dollars)

Country or area	*Total allocations*
Afghanistan	3 991 021
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3 175 301
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2 032 306
Burundi	1 978 455
Cameroon	13 809 670
Central African Republic	25 138 067
Chad	12 690 863
Congo	3 760 849
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6 956 312
Ethiopia	20 982 700
Guatemala	5 445 619
Guinea	8 354 749
Haiti	2 668 206
Honduras	2 600 021
Iraq	25 675 458
Kenya	13 635 078
Liberia	1 907 059
Libya	3 370 496
Nepal	1 870 201
Niger	5 181 281
Nigeria	1 458 309
Pakistan	4 907 639
Occupied Palestinian Territory	10 825 145
Paraguay	2 817 063
Serbia	2 164 276
Sierra Leone	4 497 599
Solomon Islands	1 776 122
Somalia	1 450 242
South Sudan	53 671 180
Sri Lanka	2 052 680
Sudan	23 232 114
Uganda	11 919 440
Ukraine	3 975 226
Zimbabwe	773 181
Total	**290 743 928**

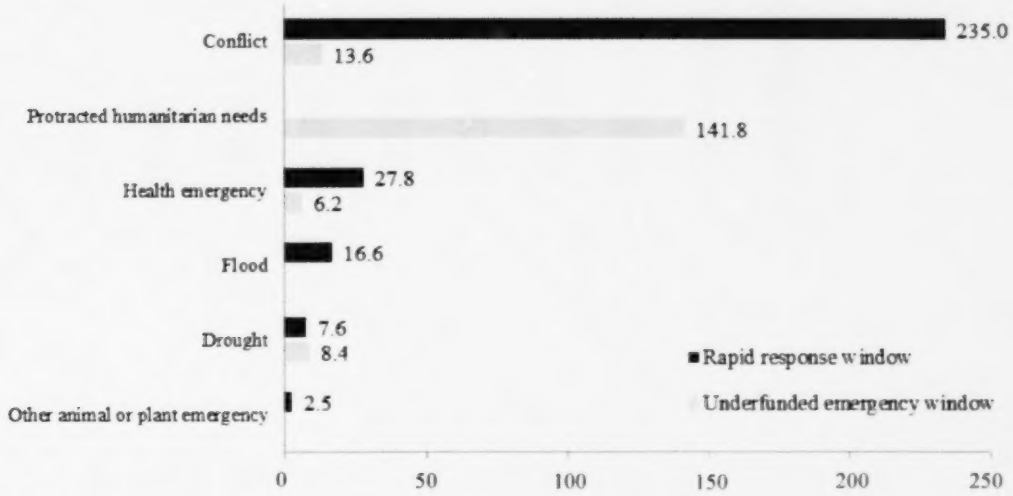
4. One third of the grant element of the Fund is reserved for emergencies that attract insufficient funding during the year. Allocations from the underfunded emergency window of the Fund allow partners to carry out essential life-saving activities in chronically underfunded situations and help to draw attention to critical gaps in the humanitarian response. During the two rounds of underfunded emergency window allocations in 2014, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved $170.1 million. The highest amounts went to Somalia ($20 million) and the Sudan ($20 million). During the first round, the Fund allocated $95.6 million to 11 countries (see table 3) facing the most critical funding shortfalls. During the second round, the Fund provided $74.5 million to help humanitarian partners facing critical shortfalls to respond to the combined regional consequences of violent conflict, mass displacement of people and deepening food insecurity in 11 countries across the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions (see para. 22, below).

Table 3
Underfunded emergency window allocations in 2014
(United States dollars)

Country or area	*First round*	*Second round*
Burkina Faso		3 929 038
Cameroon		4 508 705
Chad	10 030 942	
Colombia	4 505 910	
Djibouti	3 997 512	
Eritrea		2 489 251
Ethiopia		11 593 620
Gambia		2 474 424
Haiti	6 205 232	
Kenya		10 005 413
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	6 497 012	
Mali	11 443 365	
Mauritania		3 464 476
Myanmar	5 532 909	
Niger		7 962 500
Nigeria		3 546 645
Pakistan	9 470 278	
Senegal		4 500 298
Somalia		19 993 757
Sudan	19 986 821	
Uganda	4 019 311	
Yemen	13 897 833	
Total	**95 587 125**	**74 468 127**

5. In 2014, Fund grants were allocated to support life-saving projects in several types of emergencies (see figure I). More than half (54.5 per cent) of funds went to projects supporting conflict-affected people. Most conflict-related allocations went to projects in South Sudan ($50.2 million), the Central African Republic ($25.1 million), Ethiopia ($24.6 million) and the Sudan ($24.5 million).

Figure I
Central Emergency Response Fund, 2014 allocations by emergency type
(Millions of United States dollars)

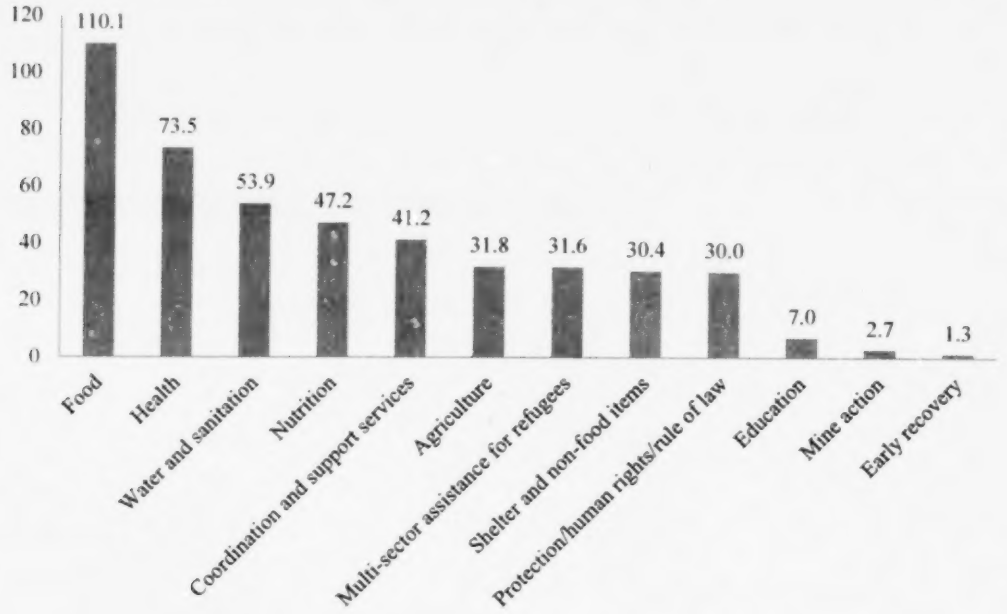


6. In terms of humanitarian sectors, food assistance ($110.1 million), health ($73.4 million) and water and sanitation ($53.9 million) totalled more than 51 per cent of all Fund allocations in 2014. Fund grants were increasingly important in helping to draw attention to and support the rights of crisis-affected people. For example, Fund-supported projects assisted in the registration of hundreds of thousands of displaced South Sudanese people and helped thousands of people in the Central African Republic to replace identification documents that they had lost amid conflict in the country. Fund grants for common services, such as humanitarian air services, logistics, security and telecommunications, were particularly important in helping to establish and scale up operations (see figure II).

Figure II

Central Emergency Response Fund, 2014 grant allocations by sector

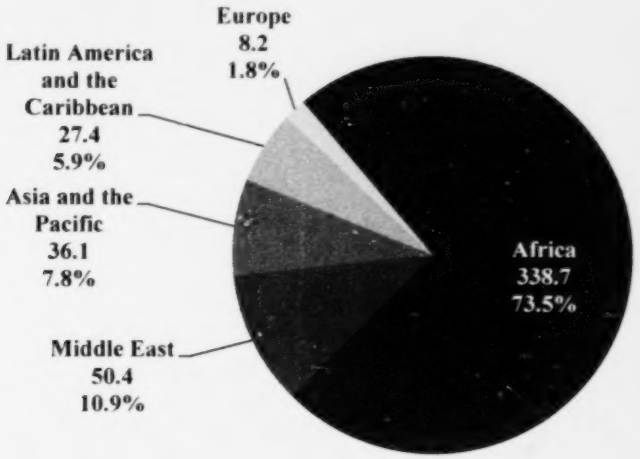
(Millions of United States dollars)



Note: Coordination and support services includes humanitarian air services, logistics, safety and security of staff, and operations and telecommunications.

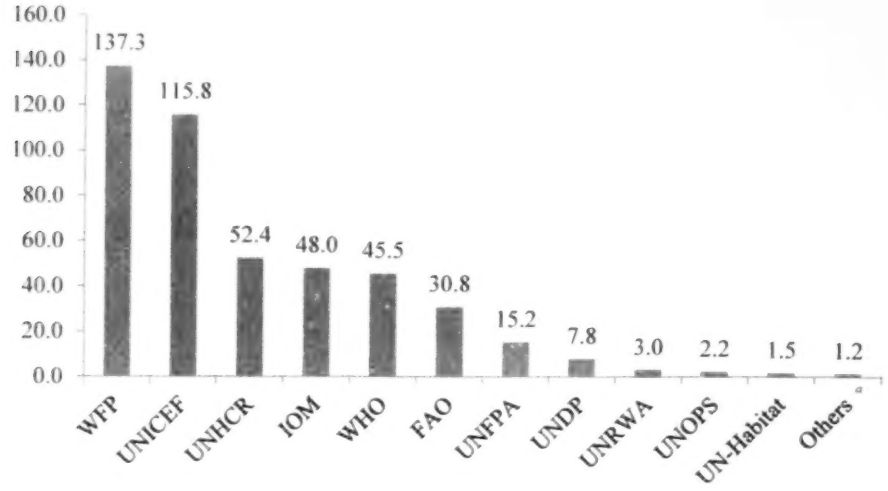
7. Driven by humanitarian demands relating to the crises in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Sudan, as well as the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, some $338.7 million, or 73.5 per cent, of total Fund allocations went to emergency activities in Africa. South Sudan was the largest recipient globally, followed by the Sudan and Ethiopia (see annex III for a breakdown by country). The Middle East received 10.9 per cent, Asia and the Pacific 7.8 per cent, Latin America and the Caribbean 5.9 per cent and Europe 1.8 per cent (see figure III).

Figure III
Central Emergency Response Fund, 2014 grant allocations by region
(Millions of United States dollars and percentage)



8. Fund grants are allocated to United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and funds and to the International Organization for Migration. These are referred to collectively as "agencies" herein. As in previous years, the three largest grant-receiving agencies during the reporting period were the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (see figure IV for a breakdown, including other recipient agencies).

Figure IV
Central Emergency Response Fund, 2014 allocations by agency
(Millions of United States dollars)



Abbreviations: FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; IOM, International Organization for Migration; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UNOPS, United Nations Office for Project Services; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; WFP, World Food Programme; WHO, World Health Organization.

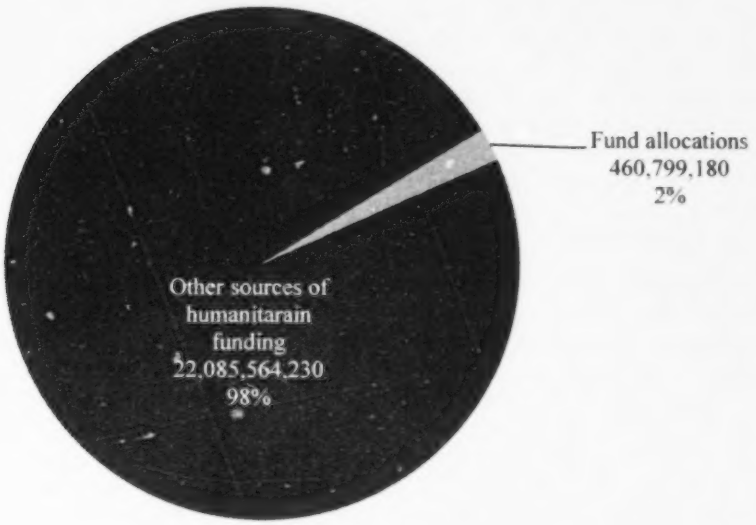
[a] Including Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

9. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/119, the Fund maintains a $30 million reserve to provide emergency loans to agencies while their resource mobilization efforts are continuing. A $27 million loan to WFP was approved in 2013 to support the response to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. The loan was extended for six months in the fourth quarter of 2014 (see annexes IV and V). WFP used the loan to support its operations in the Syrian Arab Republic and other countries in the region, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

III. Strategic use of the Fund

10. Global humanitarian funding for relief work reached a record $22.5 billion in 2014. The Fund represented 2 per cent of that funding (see figure V). Donor contributions could not keep pace with the growing demand for humanitarian assistance, highlighting the growing gap between needs and the resources available to meet them.

Figure V
Central Emergency Response Fund, 2014 allocations as a percentage of global funding
(United States dollars and percentage)



Source: Financial Tracking Service of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

11. The Fund continued to ensure that allocations focused on the most urgent life-saving needs of crisis-affected people. Given increasingly complex operating environments in which aid agencies must simultaneously meet acute emergency humanitarian needs and tackle the root causes of crises, Fund allocations need a clear strategic focus. Maximizing the impact of Fund resources requires planning and prioritization of activities by humanitarian country teams and resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators on the basis of the identification of common objectives. Appropriate timing of allocations and ensuring that Fund allocations complement other funding sources are also critical to the strategic use of the Fund in emergency situations.

A. The Fund and system-wide level 3 emergencies

12. In 2014, the Fund supported response activities in the Central African Republic, Iraq and South Sudan. Those were large-scale, unpredictable and rapidly evolving emergencies in which the Fund provided support during the early stages of the escalation of the crisis. The Emergency Relief Coordinator approved further allocations as the situations developed and new needs emerged. In total, the Fund contributed $104.5 million to humanitarian efforts relating to those crises (not including allocations to affected neighbouring countries).

13. The Fund had already allocated significant funding to support the response to the emergency in the Central African Republic, both inside the country and in the region, before it was designated a level 3 emergency in December 2013. Such a declaration means that there has been a substantial deterioration in the situation in a country that requires a short-term significant scale-up of assistance. As the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic deteriorated during 2014, affecting almost the entire population of 4.5 million people, the Fund allocated an additional $25.1 million. In the first quarter of 2014, $11.1 million from the rapid response window of the Fund helped humanitarian partners in the country to meet the immediate needs of conflict-affected people through the provision of shelter, food and clean water, and services, in the areas of basic health, protection and nutrition. In December, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated an additional $14 million from the Fund to support the scaling-up of efforts targeting communities at risk with protection and urgent relief and to allow partners to expand their presence on the ground to deliver assistance to people in areas previously beyond reach.

14. In December 2013, violence broke out in South Sudan, forcing almost 2 million people from their homes. In January 2014, the Fund allocated $15.3 million to scale up the immediate emergency response in support of improved camp coordination and management, safety and security services for humanitarian personnel and air transport services for relief organizations. The situation continued to deteriorate and the emergency was designated as level 3 in February. To help ensure a prompt response as new needs arose, additional Fund grants in March, June and December brought total Fund allocations for the crisis in South Sudan during the reporting period to $53.7 million. The allocations helped agencies to position critical supplies in hard-to-reach places ahead of the rainy season, when access becomes extremely difficult; contain a cholera outbreak; and, as violence against civilians continued, improve the dire living conditions of displaced people living in protection of civilians sites in Bentiu in the north of the country. Fund allocations also helped to strengthen safety and security measures for humanitarian staff and enabled agencies to conduct needs assessments in remote areas.

15. In 2014, the surge in violence between armed groups and government forces in Iraq left more than 2 million people internally displaced and hundreds of thousands in need of humanitarian assistance. The Fund supported the humanitarian response in early 2014 when fighting broke out in Anbar Province. As the violence spread to northern, central and southern Iraq, the Fund allocated funds in February ($4.5 million), May ($2 million) and July ($4.2 million) to support people fleeing the fighting. The emergency was designated as level 3 in August. In December, following the massive displacement of people in the north, a $15 million Fund allocation was approved for urgent protection services and basic relief assistance, covering food, shelter and health. Allocations to aid operations in Iraq in 2014 totalled $25.7 million. The Emergency Relief Coordinator also allocated $2 million from the Fund in May in response to a polio outbreak in Anbar Province.

16. Given the significant funding requirements of such large-scale crises and the limited amount available through the Fund, the allocations needed to be prioritized and focused on the most urgent needs. Fund support for emergency responses to major emergencies, even those not requiring urgent scaling-up, as in the case of level 3 emergencies, is provided at various stages of a crisis and is based on the

needs identified on the ground. As needs change and situations evolve, Fund allocations help to kick-start or scale up elements of the response.

B. Regionally coordinated Fund support

17. While the Fund does not have a specific regional allocation facility, allocations to several countries simultaneously to support comprehensive, regionally coordinated responses helped humanitarian partners to mitigate interlinked humanitarian challenges.

18. As violence spread throughout the Central African Republic in 2014, more than 419,000 people sought refuge in neighbouring countries. In response, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated rapid response grants from the Fund to meet critical needs in Chad ($22.7 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo ($5 million), Cameroon ($4.5 million) and the Congo ($3.7 million). United Nations teams in those countries used that funding for protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and host communities. For example, the humanitarian country team in Cameroon used Fund allocations to treat malnutrition and to provide clean water, food, sanitation, education and health services to more than 125,000 new refugees from the Central African Republic.

19. In 2014, increased violence forced more than 600,000 people from South Sudan to flee their country. During the year, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated $61.9 million to support humanitarian operations relating to the South Sudanese crisis to Ethiopia ($21.7 million), the Sudan ($15.3 million), Kenya ($13.6 million) and Uganda ($11.9 million). Early allocation of those grants helped humanitarian partners to reach the most vulnerable refugees and host communities in border areas with urgent protection and relief support. For example, in Ethiopia, the humanitarian country team focused its Fund assistance, which included food, shelter and clean water, on border entry points and two refugee camps that had been severely affected by floods. Towards the end of the year, given the fluid and unprecedented scale of the crisis in South Sudan, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated further Fund support to Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda to meet the basic needs of South Sudanese people who had fled across the border.

20. Early Fund allocations to partners responding to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa helped to ensure timely action. As the crisis worsened, new allocations were used to expand operations. In April, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved a $1.5 million Fund allocation to help agencies to provide health services to affected families in Guinea. As the outbreak spread across the region, the Fund provided additional grants to Sierra Leone in June and to Liberia in July. In August, when commercial airlines reduced their flights, Fund resources helped the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service to transport medical staff and supplies to remote locations in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. In September, additional Fund grants went to Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. More than $15.2 million from the Fund was allocated to treatment and prevention programmes, food assistance and logistical operations in response to the West Africa Ebola outbreak in 2014.

21. In 2014, the Emergency Relief Coordinator used the underfunded emergency window of the Fund to focus support and attention on the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, two regions facing the complex and interlinked consequences of violent conflict, mass displacement and deepening food insecurity. Almost two thirds of the

$170.1 million allocated through that window in 2014 went to operations facing critical funding gaps in those regions. More than 20 million people were displaced across the Sahel in 2014. Humanitarian partners in Chad and Mali received allocations during the first round of those window allocations. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Gambia, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal received allocations during the second round. Fund support for the region during 2014 totalled $59.1 million. In the Horn of Africa, where 9 million people were displaced during the year, the Fund supported operations in Djibouti in the first round and allocated funding to Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in the second round. Allocations to the region totalled $48.1 million in 2014.

C. Advocacy role of the Fund

22. Fund allocations can focus attention on and secure additional support for emergencies. Regionally coordinated allocations from the Fund, such as those for the Ebola crisis and the emergencies in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, were used to support outreach efforts and reinforce messaging that the international community needed to do more to support humanitarian operations. Similarly, the regionally coordinated underfunded emergency window allocations of the Fund to countries in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa helped to highlight two fragile, complex and poorly funded regional crises.

23. At the country level, Fund allocations were also used to support broader humanitarian advocacy initiatives. In Ethiopia, for example, the humanitarian country team concentrated Fund-supported programmes on two refugee camps to ensure that people living there received comprehensive assistance that included food, health, water and shelter. Demonstrating the success of relief efforts in those camps helped the Government to make the case for hosting millions of refugees in the country. In Uganda, Fund-supported projects made it possible for refugees to continue living in host communities. Working through Fund processes also helped humanitarian partners in Uganda to better prioritize and coordinate their activities, boosting donor confidence in their work and helping them to secure additional funding for programmes for displaced communities. In South Sudan, Fund-supported relief work in protection of civilians sites and a number of major donors followed.

IV. Fund administration and management

24. The Fund advisory group was established following General Assembly resolution 60/124 to advise the Secretary-General, through the Emergency Relief Coordinator, on the use and impact of the Fund. In 2014, the group met in May and October and made recommendations to the Secretary-General following both meetings (see A/68/975 and A/69/713, respectively). At the May meeting, the humanitarian coordinators from the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic and the resident coordinator from Uganda discussed their views and perspectives on the Fund, its impact in the field and the challenges that they faced in ensuring that Fund allocations were used strategically and for maximum impact. At the October meeting, the group discussed how to deal with the potential misuse of such funds. The group reaffirmed that any misuse of Fund allocations should be handled in

accordance with the existing oversight rules and mechanisms of recipient agencies and asked to be kept informed of continuing system-wide efforts to ensure coherence of fraud treatment within the United Nations. At both meetings, the group held discussions with senior officials of recipient agencies about efforts and initiatives to improve their bilateral partnerships with implementing partners and the related issue of improving the timeliness of future Fund disbursements. Other issues discussed included strengthening the strategic use of the Fund and increasing the Fund's visibility.

25. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to improve its management of the Fund. In keeping with the recommendations of the advisory group and in consultation with agencies and other partners, the secretariat finalized the implementation of a revised reporting framework for resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator reports, which is the official reporting tool on the use by humanitarian country teams of Fund support and the impact of such support. The new approach requires that reports be submitted within three months of project completion instead of on a pre-fixed date each year. Doing so has resulted in improved accountability and more timely, accurate and relevant reports that have facilitated improved analysis of the Fund's impact. It has also eliminated the need for interim reports, thereby reducing the reporting burden on agencies.

26. In 2014, the Fund revised its grant application template. The new template is better aligned with the humanitarian programme cycle and links to broader emergency response strategies and needs assessments, including strategic response plans and multi-cluster/sector initial rapid assessments and humanitarian needs overviews. The application template captures gender-related data to inform and improve the humanitarian response, and its results framework makes it easier to track achievements against plans. The template was tested in 2014 and replaced the old template in early 2015.

27. The performance and accountability framework of the Fund is used to define, manage and monitor performance and accountability processes relating to the operation of the Fund. Following recommendations resulting from a review of the performance and accountability framework in 2013, the Fund secretariat introduced a revised set of framework indicators to update, better measure and demonstrate the Fund's impact.

28. In 2014, independent consultants assessed the Fund's contribution to the humanitarian response in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar and the Sudan. The studies all found that the Fund had significantly strengthened the humanitarian response in each country. The reviews found that the Fund had enabled a timely response, in particular when rapid response applications were submitted in the early stages of a crisis. The reviews also noted the importance of Fund allocations in enabling humanitarian responses in smaller, less visible emergencies in countries with a limited international donor presence. The reviews commended the Fund secretariat for its ability to process submitted applications quickly and efficiently.

29. In 2014, two recipient agencies, UNHCR and WFP, conducted reviews of their use of Fund support. The Fund secretariat supported both evaluations. UNHCR focused specifically on the Fund, while the WFP review looked at humanitarian pooled funds more broadly, but included the Fund. While both studies highlighted significant benefits of the Fund, they identified specific actions for the agencies

themselves and for the Fund secretariat to improve the Fund's use, impact and management. For example, the UNHCR review pointed to a need for additional training on Fund processes and the WFP review urged the Fund to remain firmly focused on supporting life-saving humanitarian activities.

30. In 2014, the Fund secretariat worked with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Humanitarian Financing Task Team to identify best practices for effective cooperation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during the grant processes of the Fund. UNICEF and InterAction co-led the exercise and presented their results to the Fund advisory group. This process can help to improve United Nations-NGO partnerships relating to Fund processes and ultimately lead to more efficient and timely implementation of Fund-supported activities.

31. To improve efficiency, accountability and transparency, the Fund secretariat introduced a new internal grant management system in 2014. The grant process of the Fund — application review, approval and revision — now takes place within the grant management system, with clearly established roles and responsibilities for Fund staff. The new system collects detailed information about applications, projects, review processes and timeliness, and it disseminates real-time grant information through the Fund website and other online platforms, including the Financial Tracking Service of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. To ensure transparency, the Fund publishes these data in accordance with the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

32. In 2014, the Emergency Relief Coordinator commissioned two scoping studies to look at the role of the Fund in the evolving humanitarian landscape and to ensure that contributions entrusted to the Fund effectively and efficiently served those people most affected by crises. The studies, published in March 2015, focused on two issues: whether expanding the annual funding target of the Fund beyond $450 million would better position it to respond to growing global humanitarian needs, and the viability of using United Nations-assessed contributions to fully or partially fund the Fund.

33. The studies suggested that there was broad support for an increased funding target for the Fund, in particular in the light of the growing global funding gap and increasing humanitarian needs. Those interviewed suggested that, if the annual funding target of the Fund were raised, efforts should be made to ensure that it remained focused, well managed, flexible and quick, and continued to be guided by its life-saving criteria to save lives.

34. The reports suggested that greater flexibility with respect to the allocation of funds between the rapid response window and the underfunded emergency window would improve the ability of the Fund to respond effectively, calling into question the need to maintain the General Assembly-mandated two-thirds/one-third funding division between the two windows.

35. The reports also noted that a new funding target should be realistic and achievable, and that donor contributions to a larger Fund should be in the form of additional resources rather than reallocations from other programmes. Interviewees suggested that using United Nations-assessed contributions to fund a larger Fund would help to demonstrate the collective responsibility of Member States to provide humanitarian aid and to improve the predictability and sustainability of funding for

the Fund. They also cautioned, however, that the process involved could reduce the speed and flexibility of the Fund. The Member State representatives interviewed favoured a continuation of decentralized humanitarian financing and expressed little support for using assessed contributions to fund the Fund.

36. During 2015, consultations will be held with stakeholders, including Member States, donors, recipient agencies and the Fund advisory group, to discuss whether or not to increase the Fund's annual funding target and make adjustments to the Fund.

37. To encourage the strategic use of Fund allocations at the field level, the Fund secretariat revamped its training courses to make them more participatory and interactive. Fund workshops are available to resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators, United Nations country teams, humanitarian cluster and sector leads, and staff of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs who facilitate Fund processes. The new training modules show participants how to prioritize activities on the basis of evidence and in accordance with the most urgent humanitarian needs.

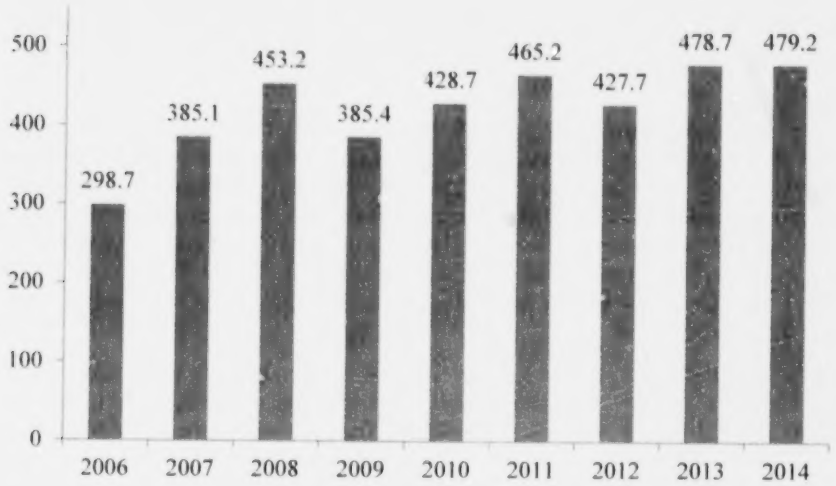
38. In 2014, the Fund secretariat implemented a new resource mobilization and communications strategy and action plan to strengthen relations with long-time supporters of the Fund, while also diversifying the contribution base. In 2014, key Fund stakeholders, including donors and the Fund advisory group, endorsed the strategy and acknowledged significant improvements in donor relations and in the visibility of the Fund and its contributors.

39. Much was achieved in promoting the Fund and demonstrating its value through the production and distribution of quality, user-friendly promotional content that included success stories, photo essays, newsletters, short videos and infographics. The content and usability of the Fund website and social media platforms were significantly improved. To better promote the Fund and its donors at the field level, the Fund secretariat provided clear visibility guidelines for recipient agencies and worked closely with recipient agencies on the joint promotion of Fund-supported projects. The Fund secretariat also worked with various partners to raise the Fund's profile among non-traditional stakeholders. For example, the Fund secretariat teamed up with award-winning musician Pharrell Williams and the United Nations Foundation to raise awareness of the Fund on the International Day of Happiness. The Fund was highlighted in the World Humanitarian Day campaign, which was managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

V. Funding levels

40. Between 1 January and 31 December 2014, the Fund received $487.7 million in contributions — the highest ever total — from 52 Member States and observers, two regional authorities, the private sector and individuals. That amount included payments received during the reporting period that were designated for 2013 and 2015. Contributions designated for the fiscal year 2014 reached $479.2 million — also a record and in keeping with a trend of strong support for the Fund (see figure VI). Total pledges for 2014 totalled $482.3 million (see annex II).

Figure VI
Total contributions received by the Central Emergency Response Fund by fiscal year
(Millions of United States dollars)



41. The top 10 donors contributed 90.9 per cent of all contributions that the Fund received in 2014. Since its inception, the Fund has received $3.8 billion in contributions from 125 Member States and observers, three regional authorities, private donors and the public. Since 2006, the Fund has had 41 countries as contributors and recipients.

42. The annual high-level conference of the Fund was held in New York on 17 December 2014. More than 40 Member States and observers, regional organizations and private sector donors attended. Together, those groups pledged $418.6 million to the Fund for operations in 2015. That was $14 million more than had been pledged in 2013 and was the second-highest amount pledged since the creation of the Fund in 2006.

VI. Conclusion

43. Through the generosity of donors, especially the top 10 contributors, the Fund again achieved the objectives assigned to it by the General Assembly. In 2014, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated $460.8 million from the Fund to life-saving humanitarian activities in 45 countries and territories. More than $290.7 million, or 63 per cent of that amount, was allocated to humanitarian activities in new or rapidly deteriorating crises through the rapid response window of the Fund and $170.1 million, or 37 per cent, was allocated to sustain aid operations in poorly funded crises through the underfunded emergency window.

44. The Fund will continue to strengthen its assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding, enabling the humanitarian community to act quickly when

tragedy strikes and steer resources to crises that do not receive the attention that they need and deserve.

45. Leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in 2016, and informed by the findings of the two scoping studies by the Fund (see para. 32, above), the Fund will work closely with stakeholders to determine if adjustments to it are required to ensure that it can continue to meet its objectives effectively.

Annex I

A. Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: statement of financial performance from 1 January to 31 December 2014[a]

(United States dollars)

Revenue	
Voluntary contributions[b]	268 234 296
Other transfers	195 448
Investment revenue[c]	1 076 560
Other exchange revenue	9 170 023
Total	**278 676 327**
Expenses	
Grants and other transfers	459 452 202
Other operating expenses[d]	15 898 888
Total	**475 351 090**
Deficit	**(196 674 763)**

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

[b] Represents voluntary contributions in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. See annex II for contributions pledged for 2014.

[c] Includes transfer from the loan component of the Central Emergency Response Fund in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/119.

[d] Includes programme support costs (United Nations) of $12,811,074 and net exchange losses of $2,714,635.

B. Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: statement of changes in net assets from 1 January to 31 December 2014[a]

(United States dollars)

	Net assets
Net assets as at 31 December 2013 (United Nations system accounting standards)	141 207 053
Total International Public Sector Accounting Standards adjustment	319 398 170
Restated net assets as at 1 January 2014 (International Public Sector Accounting Standards)	**460 605 223**
Change in net assets	
Deficit	(196 674 763)
Total changes in net assets	**(196 674 763)**
Net assets as at 31 December 2014	**263 930 460**

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Annex II

Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: contributions pledged from 1 January to 31 December 2014

(United States dollars)

Contributor	*Pledged contributions*[a]
Member States and observers	
Andorra	20 538
Argentina	70 500
Armenia	5 000
Australia	14 330 180
Belgium	17 935 539
Brazil	1 200 000
Canada	28 627 068
Chile	30 000
China	500 000
Czech Republic	116 213
Denmark	26 095 630
Estonia	135 580
Finland	9 628 611
Germany	29 960 943
Guyana	2 179
Hungary	48 047
Iceland	100 000
India	500 000
Indonesia	200 000
Ireland	12 228 261
Italy	1 377 410
Japan	1 590 814
Kazakhstan	10 000
Kuwait	500 000
Liechtenstein	280 899
Luxembourg	5 434 783
Mali	99 985
Mexico	500 000
Monaco	67 935
Mongolia	10 000
Myanmar	20 000[b]
Netherlands	54 719 562
New Zealand	2 601 908
Norway	64 923 563

Contributor	*Pledged contributions*[a]
Pakistan	10 000
Peru	4 674
Poland	212 850
Portugal	67 935
Republic of Korea	4 000 000
Romania	53 000
Russian Federation	1 500 000
San Marino	9 970
Saudi Arabia	150 000
Singapore	50 000
South Africa	243 641
Spain	2 352 941
Sweden	74 633 378
Switzerland	7 760 532
Thailand	20 000
Trinidad and Tobago	20 000
Turkey	449 630
United Arab Emirates	100 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	111 826 453
United States of America	4 000 000
Viet Nam	20 000[b]
Sovereign Military Order of Malta	5 000
Total	**481 361 152**
Regional and local authorities	
Government of Flanders (Belgium)	407 609
State of South Australia (Australia)	307 557
Total	**715 166**
Others	
Private donations outside United Nations Foundation (under $50,000)	2 073
Private donations through United Nations Foundation (under $50,000)	145 448[c]
Cigna Foundation through the United Nations Foundation	_[d]
United Nations Women's Guild	59 917
Western Union through the United Nations Foundation	50 000[c]
Total	**257 438**
Total	**482 333 756**

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

[a] Contributions are based on the pledged year of the donors and may differ from the originally recorded pledges, owing to fluctuations in exchange rates.

[b] The pledges for 2013 from Myanmar ($10,000) and Viet Nam ($10,000) were communicated and paid in 2014 and, therefore reported in 2014.

[c] Includes $65,787 collected through the United Nations Foundation in 2013 but received in 2014.

[d] Contribution of $50,000 was collected through the United Nations Foundation in 2014 but received in 2015. It will be reported in next year's report.

[e] Represents contribution of $50,000 collected through the United Nations Foundation in 2013 but received in 2014.

Annex III

Total grants allocated from the Central Emergency Response Fund from 1 January to 31 December 2014

(United States dollars)

Country or area	*Rapid response*	*Underfunded*	*Total disbursement*
South Sudan	53 671 180		53 671 180
Sudan	23 232 114	19 986 821	43 218 935
Ethiopia	20 982 700	11 593 620	32 576 320
Iraq	25 675 458		25 675 458
Central African Republic	25 138 067		25 138 067
Kenya	13 635 078	10 005 413	23 640 491
Chad	12 690 863	10 030 942	22 721 805
Somalia	1 450 242	19 993 757	21 443 999
Cameroon	13 809 670	4 508 705	18 318 375
Uganda	11 919 440	4 019 311	15 938 751
Pakistan	4 907 639	9 470 278	14 377 917
Yemen		13 897 833	13 897 833
Niger	5 181 281	7 962 500	13 143 781
Mali		11 443 365	11 443 365
Occupied Palestinian Territory	10 825 145		10 825 145
Haiti	2 668 206	6 205 232	8 873 438
Guinea	8 354 749		8 354 749
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6 956 312		6 956 312
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		6 497 012	6 497 012
Myanmar		5 532 909	5 532 909
Guatemala	5 445 619		5 445 619
Nigeria	1 458 309	3 546 645	5 004 954
Colombia		4 505 910	4 505 910
Senegal		4 500 298	4 500 298
Sierra Leone	4 497 599		4 497 599
Djibouti		3 997 512	3 997 512
Afghanistan	3 991 021		3 991 021
Ukraine	3 975 226		3 975 226
Burkina Faso		3 929 038	3 929 038
Congo	3 760 849		3 760 849
Mauritania		3 464 476	3 464 476
Libya	3 370 496		3 370 496
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3 175 301		3 175 301
Paraguay	2 817 063		2 817 063
Honduras	2 600 021		2 600 021

Country or area	*Rapid response*	*Underfunded*	*Total disbursement*
Eritrea		2 489 251	2 489 251
Gambia		2 474 424	2 474 424
Serbia	2 164 276		2 164 276
Sri Lanka	2 052 680		2 052 680
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2 032 306		2 032 306
Burundi	1 978 455		1 978 455
Liberia	1 907 059		1 907 059
Nepal	1 870 201		1 870 201
Solomon Islands	1 776 122		1 776 122
Zimbabwe	773 181		773 181
Total	**290 743 928**	**170 055 252**	**460 799 180**

Note: The amount of total allocated funds in this annex is based on the approval of the Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Annex IV

A. Central Emergency Response Fund loans: statement of financial performance from 1 January to 31 December 2014[a]

(United States dollars)

Revenue	
Investment revenue	10 987
Total	**10 987**
Expenses	
Other operating expenses[b]	10 987
Total	**10 987**
Surplus	–

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

[b] Represents a transfer to the grant element of the Fund, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/119.

B. Central Emergency Response Fund loans: statement of changes in net assets from 1 January to 31 December 2014[a]

(United States dollars)

	Net assets
Net assets as at 31 December 2013 (United Nations system accounting standards)	30 000 000
Total International Public Sector Accounting Standards adjustment	–
Restated net assets as at 1 January 2014 (International Public Sector Accounting Standards)	**30 000 000**
Change in net assets	
Surplus	–
Total changes in net assets	–
Net assets as at 31 December 2014	**30 000 000**

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Annex V

Central Emergency Response Fund loans from 1 January to 31 December 2014

(United States dollars)

Agency	*Country/region*	*Year of disbursement*	*Amount*
Outstanding loans as at 1 January 2014			
World Food Programme	Syrian Arab Republic	2013	27 000 000
Total			**27 000 000**
Loans disbursed from 1 January to 31 December 2014			
Total			–
Loans repaid from 1 January to 31 December 2014			
Total			–
Outstanding loans as of 31 December 2014			
World Food Programme[a]	Syrian Arab Republic	2013	27 000 000
Total			**27 000 000**

[a] The loan was repaid on 26 March 2015.